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Crime prevention and criminal justice

Follow-up to the Thirteenth United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice and preparations for the Fourteenth United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice

Note by the Secretariat

By its resolution 2017/15, the Economic and Social Council recommended to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolution:

Follow-up to the Thirteenth United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice and preparations for the Fourteenth United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 56/119 of 19 December 2001 on the role, function, periodicity and duration of the United Nations congresses on the prevention of crime and the treatment of offenders, in which it stipulated the guidelines in accordance with which, beginning in 2005, the congresses, pursuant to paragraphs 29 and 30 of the statement of principles and programme of action of the United Nations crime prevention and criminal justice programme,[1] should be held,

Emphasizing the responsibility assumed by the United Nations in the field of crime prevention and criminal justice in pursuance of Economic and Social Council resolution 155 C (VII) of 13 August 1948 and General Assembly resolution 415 (V) of 1 December 1950,

Acknowledging that the United Nations congresses on crime prevention and criminal justice, as major intergovernmental forums, have influenced

[1] General Assembly resolution 46/152, annex.

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national policies and practices and promoted international cooperation in that field by facilitating the exchange of views and experience, mobilizing public opinion and recommending policy options at the national, regional and international levels,

Bearing in mind the consultative nature of the United Nations congresses on crime prevention and criminal justice and their role as a forum for promoting the exchange of experience in research, law and policy development and the identification of emerging trends and issues in crime prevention and criminal justice among States, intergovernmental organizations and individual experts representing various professions and disciplines,

Recalling its resolution 57/270 B of 23 June 2003 on the integrated and coordinated implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and summits in the economic and social fields, in which it stressed that all countries should promote policies consistent and coherent with the commitments of the major United Nations conferences and summits, emphasized that the United Nations system had an important responsibility to assist Governments to stay fully engaged in the follow-up to and implementation of agreements and commitments reached at the major United Nations conferences and summits, and invited its intergovernmental bodies to further promote the implementation of the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and summits,

Recalling also its resolution 62/173 of 18 December 2007, in which it endorsed the recommendations made by the Intergovernmental Group of Experts on Lessons Learned from United Nations Congresses on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice at its meeting held in Bangkok from 15 to 18 August 2006,[2]

Recalling further its resolution 70/174 of 17 December 2015, in which it endorsed the Doha Declaration on Integrating Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice into the Wider United Nations Agenda to Address Social and Economic Challenges and to Promote the Rule of Law at the National and International Levels, and Public Participation, adopted by the Thirteenth United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, requested the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice to review the implementation of the Doha Declaration under the standing item on its agenda entitled "Follow-up to the Thirteenth United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice and preparations for the Fourteenth United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice", and welcomed with appreciation the offer of the Government of Japan to act as host to the Fourteenth United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, to be held in 2020,

Reaffirming the commitment expressed by Member States in the Doha Declaration to endeavour to mainstream a gender perspective into their criminal justice systems by developing and implementing national strategies and plans to promote the full protection of women and girls from all acts of violence, including gender-related killing of women and girls, and to promote gender-specific measures as an integral part of their policies on crime prevention, criminal justice and the treatment of offenders, including the rehabilitation and reintegration of women offenders into society, taking into

[2] See E/CN.15/2007/6, chap. IV.

consideration the United Nations Rules for the Treatment of Women Prisoners and Non-custodial Measures for Women Offenders (the Bangkok Rules),[3]

Recalling its resolution 71/206 of 19 December 2016, in which it requested the Commission to approve at its twenty-sixth session the overall theme, the agenda items and the topics for the workshops of the Fourteenth Congress, recommended that, building on the experience and the success of the Thirteenth Congress, all efforts be made to ensure that the overall theme and the agenda items and workshop topics of the Fourteenth Congress be interrelated and that the agenda items and workshop topics be streamlined and limited in number, and encouraged the holding of side events that were focused on and complemented the agenda items and workshops,

Recalling also its resolution 70/1 of 25 September 2015,

Encouraged by the success of the Thirteenth Congress as one of the largest and most diverse forums for the exchange of views on and experiences in research, law and policy and programme development between States, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations and individual experts representing various professions and disciplines,

Stressing the importance of undertaking all preparatory activities for the Fourteenth Congress in a timely and concerted manner,

Having considered the report of the Secretary-General,[4]

1. *Reiterates its invitation* to Governments to take into consideration the Doha Declaration on Integrating Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice into the Wider United Nations Agenda to Address Social and Economic Challenges and to Promote the Rule of Law at the National and International Levels, and Public Participation, adopted by the Thirteenth United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice,[5] when formulating legislation and policy directives and to make every effort, where appropriate, to implement the principles contained therein in conformity with the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations;

2. *Welcomes* the work undertaken by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime in ensuring appropriate follow-up to the implementation of the Doha Declaration, and also welcomes in that regard the contribution of the Government of Qatar;

3. *Notes* the progress made thus far in the preparations for the Fourteenth United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice;

4. *Decides* that the duration of the Fourteenth Congress should not exceed eight days, including pre-Congress consultations;

5. *Also decides* that the main theme of the Fourteenth Congress shall be "Advancing crime prevention, criminal justice and the rule of law: towards the achievement of the 2030 Agenda";

6. *Further decides* that, in accordance with its resolution 56/119, the Fourteenth Congress shall open with a high-level segment, at which States will be invited to be represented at the highest possible level, for example, by Heads of State or Government, Government ministers or attorneys general,

[3] General Assembly resolution 65/229, annex.

[4] E/CN.15/2017/11.

[5] General Assembly resolution 70/174, annex.

and that representatives will be given an opportunity to make statements on the topics of the Congress;

7. *Decides* that, in accordance with its resolution 56/119, the Fourteenth Congress shall adopt a single declaration, to be submitted to the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice for its consideration;

8. *Requests* the Secretary-General to encourage the participation of representatives from relevant entities of the United Nations system in the Fourteenth Congress, bearing in mind the main theme, agenda items and workshop topics of the Congress;

9. *Approves* the following provisional agenda for the Fourteenth Congress, finalized by the Commission at its twenty-sixth session:

1. Opening of the Congress.

2. Organizational matters.

3. Comprehensive strategies for crime prevention towards social and economic development.

4. Integrated approaches to challenges facing the criminal justice system.

5. Multidimensional approaches by Governments to promoting the rule of law by, inter alia, providing access to justice for all; building effective, accountable, impartial and inclusive institutions; and considering social, educational and other relevant measures, including fostering a culture of lawfulness while respecting cultural identities, in line with the Doha Declaration.

6. International cooperation and technical assistance to prevent and address all forms of crime:

   (a) Terrorism in all its forms and manifestations;

   (b) New and emerging forms of crime.

7. Adoption of the report of the Congress.

10. *Decides* that the following issues shall be considered in workshops within the framework of the Fourteenth Congress:

(a) Evidence-based crime prevention: statistics, indicators and evaluation in support of successful practices;

(b) Reducing reoffending: identifying risks and developing solutions;

(c) Education and youth engagement as key to making societies resilient to crime;

(d) Current crime trends, recent developments and emerging solutions, in particular new technologies as means for and tools against crime;

11. *Requests* the Secretary-General, in cooperation with the institutes of the United Nations crime prevention and criminal justice programme network, to prepare a discussion guide for the regional preparatory meetings for the Fourteenth Congress and for the Congress itself in a timely manner in order to enable those meetings to be held as early as possible in 2019, and invites Member States to be actively involved in that process;

12. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to facilitate the organization of the regional preparatory meetings and to make available the necessary resources for the participation of the least developed countries in those meetings and in the Fourteenth Congress itself, in accordance with past practice and in consultation with Member States;

13. *Urges* participants in the regional preparatory meetings to examine the substantive items on the agenda and the topics of the workshops of the Fourteenth Congress and to make action-oriented recommendations to serve as a basis for the draft recommendations and conclusions for consideration by the Congress;

14. *Invites* Member States to be represented at the highest possible level at the Fourteenth Congress, for example, by Heads of State or Government, Government ministers or attorneys general, to make statements on the theme and topics of the Congress and to participate actively in the high-level segment;

15. *Calls upon* Member States to play an active role in the Fourteenth Congress by sending legal and policy experts, including practitioners with special training and practical experience in crime prevention and criminal justice;

16. *Emphasizes* the importance of the workshops to be held within the framework of the Fourteenth Congress, and invites Member States, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations and other relevant entities to provide financial, organizational and technical support to the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and the institutes of the United Nations crime prevention and criminal justice programme network for the preparations for the workshops, including the preparation and circulation of relevant background material;

17. *Requests* the Secretary-General to facilitate the organization of ancillary meetings of non-governmental and professional organizations participating in the Fourteenth Congress, in accordance with past practice, as well as meetings of professional and geographical interest groups, and to take appropriate measures to encourage the participation of the academic and research community in the Congress, and encourages Member States to actively participate in the above-mentioned meetings, as they provide an opportunity to develop and maintain strong partnerships with the private sector and civil society organizations;

18. *Encourages* Governments to undertake preparations for the Fourteenth Congress at an early stage and by all appropriate means, including, where appropriate, the establishment of national preparatory committees;

19. *Encourages* the relevant United Nations programmes, specialized agencies of the United Nations system and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, as well as other professional organizations, to cooperate with the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime in the preparations for the Fourteenth Congress;

20. *Requests* the Commission to accord sufficient time at its twenty-seventh session to reviewing the progress made in the preparations for the Fourteenth Congress, to finalize in a timely manner all outstanding organizational and substantive arrangements and to make its recommendations to the General Assembly through the Economic and Social Council;

21. *Requests* the Secretary-General to ensure proper follow-up to the present resolution and to report thereon to the General Assembly through the Commission at its twenty-seventh session.